

Instructional Time

What are the state's requirements for start/or finish dates for schools?

January 2020

There are many exceptions to instructional time requirements across states, and not all of them are indicated in this 50-State Comparison. View the full instructional time 50-State Comparison [here](#).

STATE ▲	WHAT ARE THE STATE'S REQUIREMENTS FOR START AND/OR FINISH DATES FOR SCHOOLS?	NOTES	CITATION
Alabama	District option.		Ala. Code § 16-13-231
Alaska	District option.		Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.03.030
Arizona	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Arkansas	Start: on or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls; No earlier than August 14th No Later than August 26th.		Ark. Code Ann. § 6-10-106
California	District option.		Cal. Educ. Code § 37618
Colorado	District option.		Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-109
Connecticut	District option.		Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-66q

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Delaware	District option.		Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1049
District of Columbia	Set by the Board of Education.		D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-E, § 305
Florida	District option.		Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1008.22
Georgia	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Hawaii	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Idaho	District option.		Idaho Code Ann. § 33-512
Illinois	District option.		105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-19
Indiana	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Iowa	Start: no sooner than August 23 and no later than the first Monday in December.		Iowa Code Ann. § 279.10
Kansas	District option.		Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-3115
Kentucky	District option.		Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.070
Louisiana	District option.		28 La. Admin. Code Pt CXV, 333
Maine	District option.		Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A, § 4801
Maryland	Start: no earlier than the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day. Finish: no later than June 15.	A county board may extend the length of the school year for up to 5 days beyond June 15 without approval from the State Board.	Md. Code Regs. 01.01.2016.13 Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-103
Massachusetts	District option.		603 Mass. Code Regs. 27.03

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Michigan	Start: after Labor Day.		Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1284b
Minnesota	Start: after Labor Day.		Minn. Stat. Ann. § 120A.40
Mississippi	District option.		Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-13-61
Missouri	Start: no earlier than 14 days prior to the first Monday in September.	Starting in the 2020-21 school year, schools may start earlier if they give appropriate public notice.	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 171.031
Montana	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Nebraska	Set by the State Board of Education.		Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 79-101
Nevada	District option.		Nev. Admin. Code 387.120
New Hampshire	District option.		N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 194-C:4
New Jersey	District option.		N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:36-2
New Mexico	District option.		N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.1
New York	District option.		N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 175.5
North Carolina	Start: Monday closest to August 26 Finish: No later than the Friday closest to June 11.		N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-84.2
North Dakota	District option.		N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-06-04
Ohio	District option.		Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3311.85

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Oklahoma	District option.		Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 4516
Oregon	District option.		Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 332.075
Pennsylvania	District option.		24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 15-1504
Puerto Rico	Set by the Secretary of Education.		§ 145t Academic duties and obligations of the Secretary, 3 L.P.R.A. § 145t
Rhode Island	Start: no later than the first Thursday following the first Monday in September.		200 R.I. Code R. 20-05-1.5
South Carolina	Start: no earlier than the third Monday in August.		S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-42
South Dakota	Start: on or after the first Tuesday following the first Monday in September.		S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-9
Tennessee	Start date: no earlier than August 1st.		Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3004
Texas	Start: after the fourth Monday in August. Finish: after May 15th.		Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 25.0811 Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 25.0812
Utah	District option.		Utah Admin. Code r. R277-419-4
Vermont	District option.		Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1071
Virginia	Start: no earlier than 14 days before Labor Day.		Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-79.1
Washington	Not specified in statute or regulation.		

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West Virginia	Not specified in statute or regulation.		
Wisconsin	Start date: no earlier than September 1.		Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.045
Wyoming	Not specified in statute or regulation.		